

ABSTRACT

A method is disclosed for enforcing the sequential playback of a multimedia file. In one aspect of the method, a sending server stores a multimedia file which is then partitioned into a plurality of sequential data blocks. The server generates a plurality of enabling tokens, each corresponding to one of the plurality of sequential data blocks. The server then encodes each respective one of the pluralities of sequential data blocks with a corresponding one of the plurality of enabling tokens, producing a plurality of encoded sequential data blocks. The server then transfers the encoded sequential data blocks to a receiving client. The server also transfers the plurality of enabling tokens to the receiving client. In this manner, the server retains control over the client receiver's playback of the multimedia file.